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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/862,626	05/22/2001	Zachariah J. Reid	2001B046	1466

23455 7590 03/15/2004

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EXAMINER
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SHERR, CRISTINA O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/862,626

Applicant(s)

REID ET AL.

Examiner

Cristina O Sherr

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-76 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to the Application filed 22 May 2001. Claims 1-76 have been examined.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 22 May 2001 and 22 August 2002 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the examiner.

#### ***Specification***

3. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoyt et al (US 6,067,531A) in view of Whitesage (US 2002/0010686A1).

6. Regarding claims 1, 12, 29, 43, 54, 62, 69 and 76 –

Hoyt discloses a contract generation and administration system comprising: a single contract database comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents, said data organized into fields comprising: draft contract status, contract identifier, contract

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type, effective date, and expiration date; and a field comprising obligation type, owner, status or due date; said system capable of generating reports based on said database, said reports obtainable through search of said fields; and said database being electively accessible by a plurality of users (col 1 ln 65 – col 2 ln 56).

7. Regarding claims 2-8, 13-24, 30-39, 44-50, 55-59, 63-66, and 70-74 –

Hoyt discloses the system wherein the contract documents are selected from the group consisting of. confidentiality contracts, software licenses, technology licenses, lease contracts and service contracts wherein said fields further comprise at least one of those selected from the group consisting of. obligation triggering event, royalty basis, invoice due date, payment due date, payment received date, payment schedule, tax, currency and invoice status, wherein said draft contract status field indicates whether a contract document is being reviewed and/or executed, wherein said obligation type field is substantially defined as training, meeting, shipping, payment, receipt of payment, reporting, start-up, secrecy, restricted use, maintenance or technology transfer, wherein a user's access to one or more parts of said database is based on contract type, user's job description, user's title, user's business unit, and/or user's authority level, herein said reports are selected from the group consisting of: accrued revenue, obligations due, obligations owed, customer history, open invoice, depreciation, corporate plan, stewardship, implementation plan, payments requiring invoice, anticipated payments, audit, pending contracts, active contracts and expiring contracts (col 1 ln 65 – col 2 ln 56, tables col 9).

8. Regarding claims 9-11, 25-28, 40-42, 51-53, 60-61, and 67-68 –

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Whitesage discloses a system wherein said database further comprises standard contract forms or clauses; wherein said database further comprises standard invoice forms or standard correspondence; wherein said database is capable of using its data to generate invoices and correspondence (col 0006-00014).

9. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Hoyt and Whitesage in order to obtain a more user-friendly method of automated contract generation.

10. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

### ***Conclusion***

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina O Sherr whose telephone number is 703-305-0625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00.

12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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